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New Mexico Labor Market Review

GARREY CARRUTHERS, GOVERNOR
NEW MEXICO DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
Paul M. Garcia, Secretary
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Unemployment in New Mexico declined in April, largely in response to springtime hiring in construction and retail trade, along with continued growth in manufacturing. New Mexico's unemployment rate declined from 8.7 to 8.4 percent during the month, but even more importantly, the state's jobless rate is down by a full percentage point over the same period one year ago. The U.S. unemployment rate (not seasonally adjusted) was 5.3 percent in April, down from 5.9 percent in March and 6.2 percent one year ago. New Mexico continues to experience its lowest jobless rates since 1984, prior to the oil industry crash, while nationally, one has to go back to 1974 to find an April unemployment rate lower than this year.

Probably the most encouraging reports from our monthly payroll survey came from the construction industry, which posted rather strong hiring during the month. This is especially good news because of the employment declines experienced in construction over the last couple of years. Construction employment was up by 700 in April, following a strong 900 gain in March. Although still down by 1,300 jobs from this time last year, the industry may be getting back on track after two subpar years. Employers in manufacturing also reported hiring in April, continuing the growth trend in evidence in recent months. Virtually all of the gains in April were in lumber and apparel manufacturing. Both of these subsectors have also shown strong growth over the longer term, with increases of over 10 percent since last year. The strongest subsectors in manufacturing continue to be transportation equipment and electronic equipment, the result of expansion by firms such as Transportation Manufacturing Corporation in Roswell and Intel Corporation in Rio Rancho.

New Mexico's large trade and services industries are continuing to experience moderate but steady job growth. Employment in retail trade was up by 1,200 jobs in April, with much of the hiring during the month at restaurants and fast food places. Eating & drinking places, with its many parttime jobs, consistently provides much of the growth in trade. Over the past twelve months, the subsector, which accounts for about 30 percent of all the trade jobs in New Mexico, has produced over half of all new jobs in the trade industry.

During April, approximately 300 jobs were added

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	Prel.	Revised		Change From	
	Apr. 1988	Mar. 1988	Apr. 1987	Mar. 1988	Apr. 1987
Civilian Labor Force	691,900	690,300	681,200	+1,600	+10,700
Employment	633,600	630,300	617,300	+3,300	+16,300
Unemployment	58,300	60,000	63,900	-1,700	-5,600
Rate	8.4%	8.7%	9.4%		

ESTIMATED NONAGRICULTURAL WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT (JOBS)
(Prepared in cooperation with the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics)

NEW MEXICO	PRELIM APR 1988	REVISED MAR 1988	REVISED APR 1987	APR CHANGE FROM MAR 1988	APR CHANGE FROM APR 1987
TOTAL NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT 1/	536,900	534,500	525,900	2,400	11,000
MINING	15,200	15,300	14,400	-100	800
Metal Mining	2,200	2,200	2,100	0	100
Bituminous Coal, Quarrying etc	4,000	4,000	3,800	0	200
Oil & Gas Extraction	9,000	9,100	8,500	-100	500
CONSTRUCTION	29,700	29,000	31,000	700	-1,300
MANUFACTURING	39,700	39,500	37,000	200	2,700
DURABLE GOODS	27,300	27,200	24,500	100	2,800
Lumber & Wood Products	2,600	2,500	2,300	100	300
Machinery(except electric)	2,600	2,600	2,300	0	300
Elec & Electronic Equip	5,400	5,400	4,700	0	700
Transportation Equipment	5,300	5,300	4,200	0	1,100
Other Durable Goods	11,400	11,400	11,000	0	400
NONDURABLE GOODS	12,400	12,300	12,500	100	-100
Food & Kindred Products	3,500	3,500	3,900	0	-400
Textile & Apparel	2,700	2,600	2,500	100	200
Other Nondurable Goods	6,200	6,200	6,100	0	100
TRANSPORTATION & PUBLIC UTILITIES	28,800	28,800	28,700	0	100
TRANSPORTATION	13,000	13,000	12,700	0	300
Railroad Transportation	2,100	2,100	2,200	0	-100
Trucking & Warehousing	6,000	6,000	5,800	0	200
Other Transportation	4,900	4,900	4,700	0	200
COMMUNICATION & PUBLIC UTILITIES	15,800	15,800	16,000	0	-200
Communication	6,800	6,800	6,800	0	0
Elec, Gas, & Sanitary Services	9,000	9,000	9,200	0	-200
WHOLESALE & RETAIL TRADE	129,000	127,700	125,300	1,300	3,700
WHOLESALE TRADE	22,700	22,600	22,800	100	-100
Durable Goods	13,300	13,200	13,300	100	0
Nondurable Goods	9,400	9,400	9,500	0	-100
RETAIL TRADE	106,300	105,100	102,500	1,200	3,800
Bldg Material & Mobile Homes	4,500	4,400	4,300	100	200
General Merchandise Stores	11,700	11,800	11,400	-100	300
Food Stores	15,000	14,800	14,700	200	300
Auto Dealers & Service Stations	13,200	13,100	12,800	100	400
Apparel & Accessories	5,400	5,500	5,300	-100	100
Furniture & Furnishing	4,300	4,300	4,200	0	100
Eating & Drinking Places	40,600	39,700	38,500	900	2,100
Miscellaneous Retail	11,600	11,500	11,300	100	300
FINANCE, INSURANCE, & REAL ESTATE	27,300	27,100	26,900	200	400
Banking	8,100	8,100	8,000	0	100
Insurance Carriers	3,900	3,800	3,800	100	100
Insur Agents, Brokers & Service	2,900	2,900	2,900	0	0
Real Estate	6,500	6,400	6,200	100	300
Other Fin, Ins & Real Estate	5,900	5,900	6,000	0	-100
SERVICES	124,600	124,300	121,500	300	3,100
Hotels & Other Lodging Places	11,100	10,800	11,100	300	0
Personal Services	6,300	6,200	6,200	100	100
Business Services	30,300	30,100	29,100	200	1,200
Health Services	31,000	31,100	30,100	-100	900
Legal Services	4,400	4,400	4,200	0	200
Educational Services	5,600	5,500	5,300	100	300
Social Services	6,700	6,700	7,100	0	-400
Membership Organizations	6,100	6,000	6,200	100	-100
Other Services	23,100	23,500	22,200	-400	900
TOTAL GOVERNMENT	142,600	142,800	141,100	-200	1,500
FEDERAL GOVERNMENT	29,800	29,700	30,400	100	-600
STATE & LOCAL GOVERNMENT	112,800	113,100	110,700	-300	2,100
State Government 2/	50,600	50,700	51,200	-100	-600
Local Government	62,200	62,400	59,500	-200	2,700

1/ Estimates include all full-time and part-time wage and salary workers who worked or received pay during the pay period which included the 12th day of the month. Self-employed, family workers, household workers and members of the Armed Forces are excluded.

2/ Includes employees of Los Alamos National Laboratory.

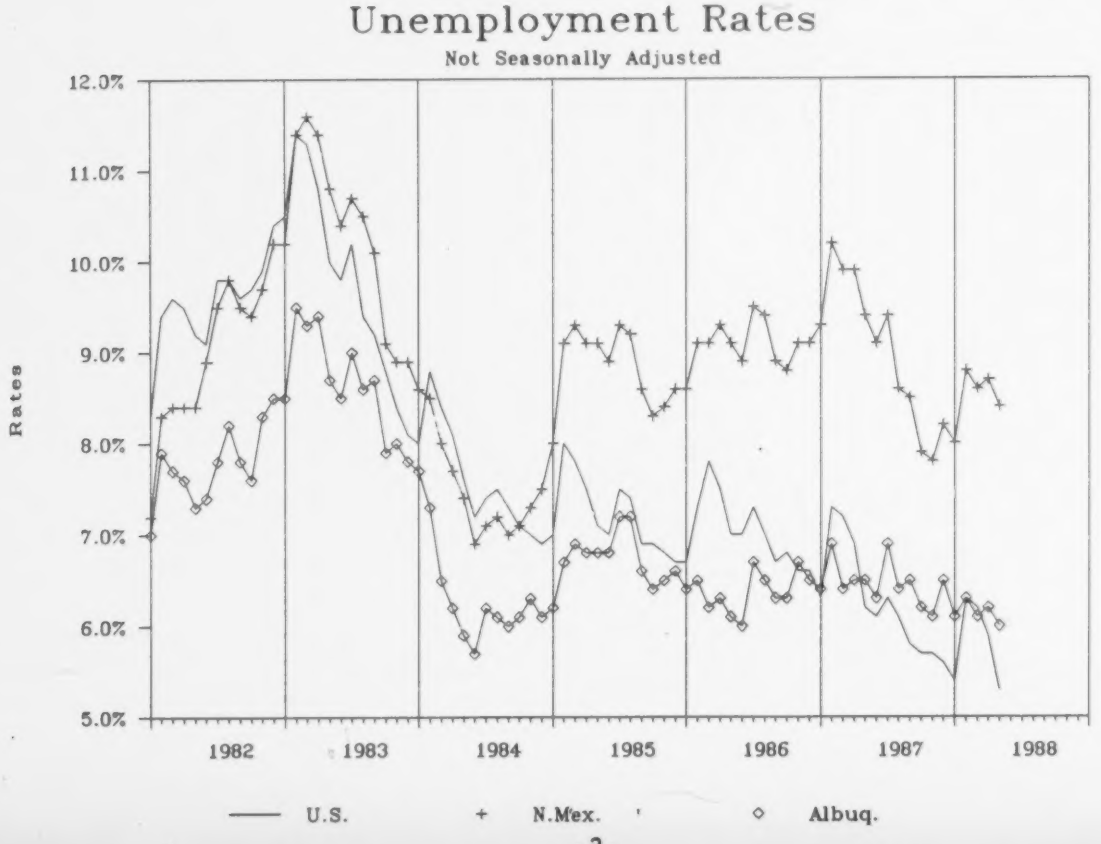
ALBUQUERQUE AREA (BERNALILLO COUNTY)

According to preliminary estimates, Albuquerque's unemployment rate was an even 6 percent in April, down from 6.2 percent in March. The number of unemployed in Bernalillo County dropped by 500 over the month. Early spring usually sees moderate reductions in the unemployment figures before the numbers jump in June with the onslaught of summer job seekers. Unemployment in Albuquerque continues to be improved over 1987 figures, with an unemployment rate .5 of a percentage point lower now than one year ago.

Total non-farm employment was up by 1,200 jobs in April. Most major industries either posted small gains or matched last month's figures; only government lost ground with a drop of 100 jobs. Construction and trade added the most jobs during the month, as is usually the case in early spring. Construction reported healthy employment gains in March and now again in April, and hopefully the industry is stabilizing after two rather tough years. Even with the recent gains, building employment in Albuquerque is still off by 700 jobs from 1987 and 1,700 from 1986 employment levels.

Besides the construction figures, the other really encouraging employment trend is in manufacturing. Manufacturing is leading all major industries in percentage job growth, with an annual growth rate of almost 4 percent. The fastest growing subsectors in manufacturing are lumber, machinery, electronic equipment, and scientific instruments manufacturing.

	Prel.	Revised		Change From	
	Apr. 1988	Mar. 1988	Apr. 1987	Mar. 1988	Apr. 1987
Civilian Labor Force	265,200	265,500	261,800	-300	+3,400
Employment	249,300	249,100	244,800	+200	+4,500
Unemployment	15,900	16,400	17,000	-500	-1,100
Rate	6.0%	6.2%	6.5%		



ESTIMATED NONAGRICULTURAL WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT (JOBS)
(Prepared in cooperation with the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics)

ALBUQUERQUE MSA (BERNALILLO COUNTY)	PRELIM APR 1988	REVISED MAR 1988	REVISED APR 1987	APR CHANGE FROM MAR 1988	APR CHANGE FROM APR 1987
TOTAL NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT 1/	235,600	234,400	230,400	1,200	5,200
MINING	200	200	200	0	0
CONSTRUCTION	15,100	14,800	15,800	300	-700
MANUFACTURING	20,500	20,500	19,700	0	800
Durable Goods	15,000	14,900	14,300	100	700
Nondurable Goods	5,500	5,600	5,400	-100	100
TRANSPORTATION & PUBLIC UTILITIES	12,500	12,500	12,100	0	400
Transportation	6,100	6,100	5,900	0	200
Communication	3,900	3,900	3,800	0	100
Elec, Gas, & Sanitary Services	2,500	2,500	2,400	0	100
WHOLESALE & RETAIL TRADE	60,400	60,100	58,300	300	2,100
WHOLESALE TRADE	14,100	14,100	14,200	0	-100
Durable Goods	9,500	9,500	9,500	0	0
Nondurable Goods	4,600	4,600	4,700	0	-100
RETAIL TRADE	46,300	46,000	44,100	300	2,200
General Merchandise Stores	4,900	4,900	4,600	0	300
Food Stores	5,000	5,000	5,000	0	0
Auto Dealers & Service Stations	4,800	4,700	4,600	100	200
Eating & Drinking Places	18,900	18,600	17,600	300	1,300
Other Retail Trade	12,700	12,800	12,300	-100	400
FINANCE, INSURANCE, & REAL ESTATE	15,000	14,800	14,800	200	200
Banking	3,400	3,400	3,200	0	200
Ins Carriers, Agents & Brokers	4,300	4,200	4,200	100	100
Other Fin, Ins & Real Estate	7,300	7,200	7,400	100	-100
SERVICES	64,800	64,300	63,800	500	1,000
Hotels & Other Lodging Places	3,800	3,700	3,900	100	-100
Personal Services	3,000	2,900	3,300	100	-300
Business Services	21,000	20,900	20,500	100	500
Health Services	14,600	14,600	14,200	0	400
Social Services	2,800	2,800	3,000	0	-200
Membership Organizations	1,800	1,800	1,900	0	-100
Other Services	17,800	17,600	17,000	200	800
TOTAL GOVERNMENT	47,100	47,200	45,700	-100	1,400
FEDERAL GOVERNMENT	13,500	13,500	13,200	0	300
STATE & LOCAL GOVERNMENT	33,600	33,700	32,500	-100	1,100
State Government	12,900	12,900	12,900	0	0
Local Government	20,700	20,800	19,600	-100	1,100

1/ Estimates include all full-time and part-time wage and salary workers who worked or received pay during the pay period which included the 12th day of the month. Self-employed, family workers, household workers and members of the Armed Forces are excluded.

ESTIMATED NONAGRICULTURAL WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT (JOBS)
(Prepared in cooperation with the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics)

LAS CRUCES MSA (DONA ANA COUNTY) 1/	PRELIM APR 1988	REVISED MAR 1988	REVISED APR 1987	APR CHANGE FROM MAR 1988	APR CHANGE FROM APR 1987
TOTAL NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT 2/	41,100	40,950	41,000	150	100
MINING	50	50	50	0	0
CONSTRUCTION	2,100	2,100	2,200	0	-100
MANUFACTURING	3,750	3,750	3,900	0	-150
Durable Goods	1,550	1,550	1,600	0	-50
Nondurable Goods	2,200	2,200	2,300	0	-100
TRANSPORTATION & PUBLIC UTILITIES	1,300	1,350	1,400	-50	-100
Transportation	500	550	550	-50	-50
Comm, Elec, Gas & Sanitary Svs	800	800	850	0	-50
WHOLESALE & RETAIL TRADE	8,550	8,500	7,900	50	650
WHOLESALE TRADE	900	850	850	50	50
RETAIL TRADE	7,650	7,650	7,050	0	600
General Merchandise Stores	850	850	850	0	0
Food Stores	1,050	1,050	1,000	0	50
Auto Dealers & Service Stations	1,050	1,100	950	-50	100
Eating & Drinking Places	3,100	3,000	2,800	100	300
Other Retail Trade	1,600	1,650	1,450	-50	150
FINANCE, INSURANCE, & REAL ESTATE	1,700	1,650	1,650	50	50
SERVICES	6,750	6,650	6,400	100	350
Hotels & Other Lodging Places	700	700	700	0	0
Business Services	1,450	1,400	1,250	50	200
Health Services	1,850	1,800	1,750	50	100
Social Services	250	250	300	0	-50
Other Services	2,500	2,500	2,400	0	100
TOTAL GOVERNMENT	16,900	16,900	17,500	0	-600
FEDERAL GOVERNMENT	4,200	4,200	4,400	0	-200
STATE & LOCAL GOVERNMENT	12,700	12,700	13,100	0	-400
State Government	7,100	7,100	7,900	0	-800
Local Government	5,600	5,600	5,200	0	400

SANTA FE MSA (SANTA FE & LOS ALAMOS COUNTIES) 1/	PRELIM APR 1988	REVISED MAR 1988	REVISED APR 1987	APR CHANGE FROM MAR 1988	APR CHANGE FROM APR 1987
TOTAL NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT 2/	54,500	54,200	52,800	300	1,700
MINING	50	50	100	0	-50
CONSTRUCTION	2,300	2,200	2,400	100	-100
MANUFACTURING	1,700	1,700	1,600	0	100
Durable Goods	1,100	1,100	1,000	0	100
Nondurable Goods	600	600	600	0	0
TRANSPORTATION & PUBLIC UTILITIES	1,250	1,200	1,150	50	100
Transportation	450	450	400	0	50
Comm, Elec, Gas & Sanitary Svs	800	750	750	50	50
WHOLESALE & RETAIL TRADE	10,850	10,600	10,200	250	650
WHOLESALE TRADE	850	800	800	50	50
RETAIL TRADE	10,000	9,800	9,400	200	600
General Merchandise Stores	950	950	950	0	0
Food Stores	1,150	1,200	1,250	-50	-100
Auto Dealers & Service Stations	800	850	800	-50	0
Eating & Drinking Places	4,500	4,300	4,000	200	500
Other Retail Trade	2,600	2,500	2,400	100	200
FINANCE, INSURANCE, & REAL ESTATE	2,000	2,000	2,000	0	0
SERVICES	14,350	14,350	13,650	0	700
Hotels & Other Lodging Places	1,750	1,650	1,750	100	0
Business Services	3,200	3,200	3,300	0	-100
Health Services	3,300	3,300	3,100	0	200
Social Services	600	600	600	0	0
Other Services	5,500	5,600	4,900	-100	600
TOTAL GOVERNMENT	22,000	22,100	21,700	-100	300
FEDERAL GOVERNMENT	1,500	1,500	1,600	0	-100
STATE & LOCAL GOVERNMENT	20,500	20,600	20,100	-100	400
State Government 3/	16,300	16,400	16,200	-100	100
Local Government	4,200	4,200	3,900	0	300

1/ In accordance with the CES Manual, those published cells with less than 2,000 employees are rounded to nearest 50. Those published cells with more than 2,000 employees are rounded to 100.
2/ Estimates include all full-time and part-time wage and salary workers who worked or received pay during the pay period which included the 12th day of the month. Self-employed, family workers, household workers and members of the Armed Forces are excluded.
3/ Includes employees of Los Alamos National Laboratory.

AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS
Hours and Earnings of Production, Construction and Nonsupervisory Employees
(Prepared in cooperation with the U. S. Bureau of Labor Statistics)

	AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS			AVERAGE WEEKLY HOURS			AVERAGE HOURLY EARNINGS		
NEW MEXICO	APR 1988	MAR 1988	APR 1987	APR 1988	MAR 1988	APR 1987	APR 1988	MAR 1988	APR 1987
MINING	$514.25	$495.85	$494.91	42.5	42.2	42.3	12.10	11.75	11.70
CONSTRUCTION	$437.31	$440.55	$402.84	38.7	39.3	37.3	11.30	11.21	10.80
MANUFACTURING	$369.41	$375.65	$345.86	41.0	41.6	39.8	9.01	9.03	8.69
Durable Goods	$377.04	$384.57	$362.56	41.8	42.4	40.6	9.02	9.07	8.93
Nondurable Goods	$349.71	$351.55	$305.42	38.9	39.5	37.8	8.99	8.90	8.08
COMMUNICATION & UTILITIES	$601.43	$582.34	$562.30	43.9	42.6	41.9	13.70	13.67	13.42
WHOLESALE & RETAIL TRADE	$213.83	$216.92	$222.44	30.9	31.9	33.4	6.92	6.80	6.66
Wholesale Trade	$361.80	$389.64	$366.42	40.2	40.8	39.4	9.00	9.55	9.30
Retail Trade	$181.00	$183.62	$194.12	29.1	30.2	32.3	6.22	6.08	6.01
BANKING	$229.07	$226.64	$227.50	37.8	37.4	38.3	6.06	6.06	5.94
ALBUQUERQUE MSA	APR 1988	MAR 1988	APR 1987	APR 1988	MAR 1988	APR 1987	APR 1988	MAR 1988	APR 1987
MANUFACTURING	$380.07	$380.59	$360.08	41.0	41.1	39.7	9.27	9.26	9.07
Durable Goods	$403.85	$406.39	$378.42	42.2	42.2	40.3	9.57	9.63	9.39
Nondurable Goods	$308.70	$303.20	$305.94	37.6	37.9	38.1	8.21	8.00	8.03

NOTE: Estimates include all full-time and part-time wage and salary workers who worked or received pay during the pay period which included the 12th day of the month. Self-employed, family workers, household workers and members of the Armed Forces are excluded. The average earnings are "gross" reflecting not only changes in basic hourly and incentive wage rates but also such factors as premium pay for overtime and shift differentials. The work week information relates to the average hours for which pay was received, and is different from standard or scheduled hours due to absenteeism, labor turnover, part time work, overtime work etc.

U.S. CONSUMER PRICE INDEX

Beginning with the release of January 1988 data, the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics has shifted the Consumer Price Index (CPI) to a new reference base year, 1982-84 = 100. Historical data for the CPI series on the new base are available from the U.S. Department of Labor by writing to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, 525 Griffin St., Room 221, Dallas, TX 75202, or by calling (214) 767-6970.

	Apr. 1988	Mar. 1988	Apr. 1987	Percent Change Mar.'88-Apr.'88	Percent Change Apr.'87-Apr.'88
CPI-U	117.1	116.5	112.7	+0.5%	+3.9%
CPI-W	115.7	115.1	111.6	+0.5%	+3.7%

Index Base Year 1982-84 = 100

CPI-U - All Urban Consumers
CPI-W - Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers

Source: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics

Area Economic Activity

Albuquerque Area: Construction has started on a nine-building office park complex on Jefferson NE about a quarter-mile south of Osuna. The buildings in the seven-acre office park, which will be called Jefferson Court, will range in size from 5,400 square feet to 21,600 square feet. The Journal Center Corp. has announced plans to build a 78,000-square-foot office building on Jefferson N.E., west of I-25 and south of Paseo del Norte. Construction of the $5 million four-story building is scheduled to begin this summer. Bernalillo Public Schools have eliminated 13 classroom teacher and 27 instructional aid positions as a result of a $9.7 million budget cut. Montano Center, located at Montano Road and Coors Boulevard, will add nearly 30,000 square feet of retail space as part of the second phase of construction of the shopping center. The new addition, which should be completed by fall, will almost double the size of the shopping center. Lukens Corp. is opening a temporary office in the AMREP Southwest building adjacent to its 34,500-square-foot medical sutures manufacturing plant currently under construction in Rio Rancho. The firm will begin hiring trainees in the next few weeks, but the bulk of its 100-worker staff will be hired when production begins later this year, according to Lukens officials.

Alamogordo / Ruidoso Area: Bradley General Contractors of Albuquerque was awarded a $6 million contract by the Corps of Engineers to upgrade water, sewer, and electrical lines at Holloman Air Force Base. Combine Builders of Phoenix was awarded a $6 million contract to upgrade housing at Holloman AFB. Wal-Mart announced plans to open a 65,000-square-foot discount department store in Alamogordo late this year, adding approximately 120 jobs to the local economy. DynCorp-Aero Space Division completed its hiring process with over 600 workers on payroll. DynCorp was awarded the aircraft maintenance contract for Holloman AFB which replaces over 1,000 military and civilian government jobs at the base. The New Mexico Department of Labor office in Alamogordo recently negotiated a $30,000 Job Training Partnership Act (JTPA) contract with Mascalero Apache Tribal officials to train up to 14 Native Americans at their new saw mill on the reservation.

Carlsbad / Artesia Area: Eddy County received good news recently when Mississippi Chemical Corporation announced plans to reopen its potash mine by the end of the year. Mississippi is expected to initially employ 170 workers at the mine which has been closed since January 1983. Mississippi had previously purchased the closed National Potash Company operation in Eddy County, and the company plans to use the National Potash compaction, storage, and shipping facilities in conjunction with its own surface mining operations.

Clovis / Portales Area: Twin Mountain Rock Company of Albuquerque was awarded a $4 million contract to construct the long-awaited Highway 70 overpass in Clovis. K-Mart Inc. announced plans to expand its store in Clovis into adjacent space formerly occupied by Albertson's food store; however, company officials also disclosed that the K-Mart automotive center in Clovis will be closed.

Farmington Area: Texas Style Chips is finally coming to the Farmington area. After negotiations with Navajo Agricultural Products Industry (NAPI) officials proved unsuccessful, the $1.5 million dollar potato chip factory will now be built in Bloomfield. Construction should begin by June 1st; the factory is expected to employ 45 people initially. Arizona Public Service (APS) plans to eliminate as many as 200 jobs from its Four Corners Power Plant. The job reductions, which will start in early June, are part of a program to eliminate 800 to 900 jobs throughout the entire APS system.

Hobbs / Lovington Area: Oil rig activity across the country as of the end of April, as reported by Hughes Tool Company, show the Permian Basin with about 130 working rigs, compared with approximately 110 at the same period last year. Lea County accounted for about 25 of the Basin rig count this year. Nationally, a total of 900 oil rigs were in operation, up from 775 one year ago.

Las Cruces Area: Las Cruces will have its second K-Mart, a $1.4 million, 86,000-square-foot facility, open by August. The new store is under construction in a new shopping center on Telshore Boulevard on the city's east side. Dona Fashions Inc., a new manufacturer of women's coats started up earlier this year, is

now employing approximately 40 workers at its plant.

Raton Area: Approximately 125 coal miners returned to work at Kaiser Coal Corp's York Canyon surface mine in late April. The surface mine had been idle since late March due to what officials termed a cash flow problem. A U.S. Bankruptcy Judge has approved the sale of La Mesa Park to a group of approximately 30 business and professional people from the Raton area. The group, called the Raton Racing Corporation, purchased the track for $975,000. The racetrack opened for its 43rd consecutive racing season on May 14. A group of five area businessmen and the Small Business Administration plan to purchase Western Hollow Metal Company, a metal door manufacturer located in Raton. The company, which had employed over 30 people in the past, was down to just a few workers. The new owners plan to change the name of the door plant to Cook Street Limited and hope to increase production.

Roswell Area: FiberTech Inc., a fiberglass manufacturer, will move its plant currently in Killeen, TX to Roswell, resulting in about 50 new jobs for the area. The firm is considering three possible sites, two in the Roswell Air Industrial Center, for its $350,000 plant which will produce molded fiberglass components for Transportation Manufacturing Corporation, a local bus manufacturer.

Santa Fe Area: The Albertson's store in the De Vargas Center will be expanded by 15,000 square feet. The enlarged store, which will total 39,000 square feet, will be manned by an additional 50 employees. Ferro-ECA Electronics Company of Erie, PA has opened an assembly plant in Valdez Industrial Park. The 6,000-square-foot plant will employ about 12 people.

Silver City / Deming Area: A new 41-unit Super 8 Motel is being built in Silver City. A company which manufactures air cargo loading equipment has signed a letter of intent to locate a production facility in Grant County's new industrial park located by the county airport. The company, Eagle Mountain Manufacturing, is expected to employ 20-25 workers. Construction is expected to begin soon on a new facility for Border Foods, the large chili processing firm located in Deming. Border Foods, which employs over 400 workers each year in the early fall, will consolidate its current operations in the new structure.

Socorro / Belen Area: Construction has begun on the Avonite Inc. building material manufacturing plant at the Rio Grande Industrial Park east of Belen. Avonite is expected to employ up to 100 workers when in production. The plant will produce a polymer that can be used in place of granite, marble or onyx. The San Antonio area is being proposed as the site for an industrial waste incinerator. If approved, the project would take 18 months to complete and employ 12 to 15 persons. The incinerator will be the only one of its kind in the state; New Mexico currently ships it's industrial waste to other states. Financial problems at the Belen School District will force the cutback of about 25 jobs in the district this fall, according to school officials.

Taos Area: Taos Ski Valley ended its season on the 4th of April, laying off approximately 350 of its winter staff. Approximately 70 workers will be employed at Taos Ski Valley through the summer months continuing the $3 million expansion project begun in 1987.

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(Continued from Page 1)

in the services industry, as lodging places and business services saw gains. Since last April, services employment has grown by 2.6 percent, with many of the new jobs in the two largest subsectors, health and business services. Business services includes all firms which render services to other businesses and government agencies - such things as advertising, data processing, scientific research and one of the fastest growing fields, temporary help services.

In government, New Mexico's largest employing sector, employment was virtually unchanged in April and over the longer term, the sector is also experiencing very little change. Both federal and state government are actually showing job losses from this time last year, while local government is posting growth of 2,700 jobs or 4.5 percent. Most of the jobs in the local government sector are at public schools.

NEW MEXICO DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

The New Mexico Department of Labor was created during the 1987 legislative session by Senate Bill 407, as amended, and began operations on July 1, 1987. Headed by Cabinet Secretary Paul M. Garcia, the new Department comprises an Administrative Services Division and five program divisions: Employment Security; Job Training; Workers' Compensation; Human Rights; and Labor and Industrial. In this and future issues, the Labor Market Review will feature each of the Department's program divisions, briefly describing their functions and available services. This issue spotlights the Labor and Industrial Division.

Labor and Industrial Division

Apprenticeship (Albuquerque)

Public Works Survey (Santa Fe)

Student Labor (Santa Fe)

Wage and Hour/ Public Works (Albuquerque)

- Santa Fe
- Carlsbad
- Las Cruces

Mission - The mission of the Labor and Industrial Division is to develop and promote programs for the welfare and benefit of wage earners. It enforces laws regulating hours of labor, employment of minors and payment of wages. It is also responsible for managing a program of voluntary apprenticeship training. The Division enforces all labor laws in the State of New Mexico, except for those exclusively vested in other entities. A brief description of various sections and bureaus of the Division is given below.

Apprenticeship Section/Council. The Apprenticeship Section, located in Albuquerque, promotes apprenticeship programs and provides technical assistance and services to various employer established programs throughout the State. Working with the Bureau of Apprenticeship Training, U.S. Department of Labor, this section includes over 700 apprenticeable programs. Over one hundred programs are currently operating in the State. An eight member board works with the apprenticeship manager in formulating standards to safeguard the welfare of the apprentices and to approve programs.

Public Works Survey Section. The Public Works Survey section, located in Santa Fe, conducts two wage surveys per year for each of four classifications of construction under the Public Works Minimum Wage Act. These wage rates are used by the Wage and Hour/Public Works Bureau in issuance of minimum wage rates to State or political subdivisions on contracts of over $20,000.00 of buildings or public roads involving employment of laborers and mechanics.

Student Labor Section. The Student Labor Section, located in Santa Fe, enforces the Child Labor Laws. This section is responsible for notifying school officials of applicable laws and making presentations to students. Work permits and age certificates for students and employer use are disseminated by this division. Activities of this section are coordinated with the Employment Standards Division, U.S. Department of Labor.

Wage and Hour/Public Works Bureau. This Bureau enforces the Minimum Wage Act, Payment of Wages Act, Blacklisting, and Overtime. This Bureau issues minimum wage rates to State and political subdivisions on contracts of over $20,000.00 of buildings or public roads which involve employment of laborers and mechanics as specified in the Public Works Minimum Wage Act. Headquartered in Albuquerque, the Bureau also has offices in Santa Fe, Carlsbad, and Las Cruces. This Bureau, under various State statutes, provides services to employees who cannot afford their own legal counsel and/or have no bargaining agreement or contract to protect them. The Bureau also provides seminars and materials to employers and employee groups on the compliance requirements of the various State laws.

Additional information on the functions of the Labor and Industrial Division may be obtained from the office of the Director, Aspen Building, 1596 Pacheco Street, Santa Fe, NM, 87501, 827-6875, or from the Albuquerque office at 501 Mountain Road, NE, 87102, 841-8983 or 841-8989.

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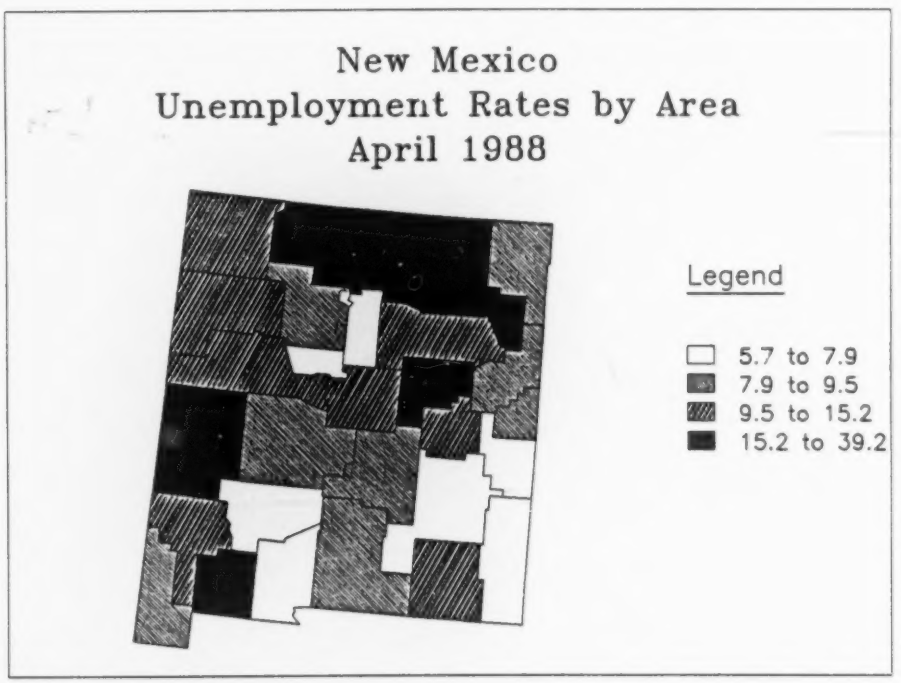

NEW MEXICO LABOR FORCE ESTIMATES 1/

	PRELIMINARY APRIL 1988				REVISED MARCH 1988				REVISED APRIL 1987			
	Labor Force	Empl.	Unemp.	Rate	Labor Force	Empl.	Unemp.	Rate	Labor Force	Empl.	Unemp.	Rate
STATEWIDE	691,905	633,631	58,274	8.4%	690,362	630,327	60,035	8.7%	681,193	617,305	63,888	9.4%
ALBUQUERQUE MSA 2/	265,193	249,256	15,937	6.0%	265,542	249,116	16,426	6.2%	261,850	244,823	17,027	6.5%
LAS CRUCES MSA 3/	56,505	52,278	4,227	7.5%	55,294	50,961	4,333	7.8%	54,958	51,062	3,896	7.1%
SANTA FE MSA 4/	67,492	63,667	3,825	5.7%	66,086	62,234	3,852	5.8%	64,208	60,234	3,974	6.2%
Catron	1,210	1,014	196	16.2%	1,235	954	281	22.8%	1,167	947	220	18.9%
Chaves	23,162	21,619	1,543	6.7%	23,232	21,601	1,631	7.0%	22,554	20,429	2,125	9.4%
Cibola	8,870	7,742	1,128	12.7%	9,096	7,839	1,257	13.8%	9,156	7,810	1,346	14.7%
Colfax	7,420	6,020	1,400	18.9%	7,407	6,481	926	12.5%	6,742	5,719	1,023	15.2%
Curry	16,305	14,898	1,407	8.6%	16,780	14,889	1,891	11.3%	16,922	15,527	1,395	8.2%
De Baca	929	826	103	11.1%	950	837	113	11.9%	908	809	99	10.9%
Eddy	20,028	18,039	1,989	9.9%	20,185	18,115	2,070	10.3%	21,013	18,241	2,772	13.2%
Grant	10,573	9,553	1,020	9.6%	10,566	9,558	1,008	9.5%	10,145	9,095	1,050	10.3%
Guadalupe	1,661	1,375	286	17.2%	1,661	1,334	327	19.7%	1,706	1,379	327	19.2%
Harding	448	375	73	16.3%	466	382	84	18.0%	433	365	68	15.7%
Hidalgo	2,618	2,411	207	7.9%	2,541	2,381	160	6.3%	2,552	2,375	177	6.9%
Lea	22,221	20,509	1,712	7.7%	22,556	20,681	1,875	8.3%	23,036	20,155	2,881	12.5%
Lincoln	6,366	5,821	545	8.6%	6,300	5,708	592	9.4%	6,342	5,767	575	9.1%
Luna	5,813	4,929	884	15.2%	5,829	4,928	901	15.5%	5,741	4,820	921	16.0%
McKinley	17,616	15,453	2,163	12.3%	17,806	15,533	2,273	12.8%	17,529	15,421	2,108	12.0%
Mora	1,454	898	556	38.2%	1,367	897	470	34.4%	1,313	818	495	37.7%
Otero	18,602	16,863	1,739	9.3%	18,737	16,995	1,742	9.3%	17,741	16,280	1,461	8.2%
Quay	4,624	4,255	369	8.0%	4,706	4,225	481	10.2%	4,591	4,182	409	8.9%
Rio Arriba	14,500	11,572	2,928	20.2%	14,592	11,573	3,019	20.7%	14,589	11,345	3,244	22.2%
Roosevelt	7,519	7,062	457	6.1%	7,753	7,176	577	7.4%	7,486	7,007	479	6.4%
Sandoval	25,514	23,490	2,024	7.9%	24,987	22,953	2,034	8.1%	23,415	21,469	1,946	8.3%
San Juan	33,688	29,263	4,425	13.1%	33,898	29,145	4,753	14.0%	34,566	28,772	5,794	16.8%
San Miguel	10,243	8,920	1,323	12.9%	10,122	8,692	1,430	14.1%	10,173	8,743	1,430	14.1%
Sierra	2,562	2,410	152	5.9%	2,605	2,422	183	7.0%	2,597	2,375	222	8.5%
Socorro	6,081	5,507	574	9.4%	6,138	5,502	636	10.4%	5,854	5,330	524	9.0%
Taos	11,180	8,160	3,020	27.0%	10,744	8,206	2,538	23.6%	10,892	7,177	3,715	34.1%
Torrance	3,463	3,078	385	11.1%	3,474	3,031	443	12.8%	3,467	3,062	405	11.7%
Union	2,000	1,840	160	8.0%	2,044	1,887	157	7.7%	2,042	1,867	175	8.6%
Valencia	16,045	14,528	1,517	9.5%	15,663	14,091	1,572	10.0%	15,505	13,900	1,605	10.4%

1/ All estimates are made in strict accordance with methodology provided by the U. S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics

2/ Metropolitan Statistical Area - Bernalillo County

3/ Metropolitan Statistical Area - Dona Ana County

4/ Metropolitan Statistical Area - Santa Fe and Los Alamos Counties

New Mexico Department of Labor
Economic Research and Analysis (CC 6097)
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Albuquerque, New Mexico 87103

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